

WI-328
J. Waller Williams House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1920

Solid Flemish bond brick walls and a durable slate roof distinguish this two-and-a-half story, four-square dwelling located at 103 East Isabella Street in the Newtown Historic District. Historically known as the J. Waller Williams house and dating to the 1920s, the rectangular main block is extended by a hip roofed porch with arched openings in front and an enclosed porch to the east. Both porches are distinguished by a pierced brick railing. Also distinctive to the house are the round arched dormers that mark the medium pitched slate roof. Dating from the same period is a single-story hip roofed brick garage.

The early twentieth century design of the J. Waller Williams house provides an interesting architectural contrast to the mid and late nineteenth-century Victorian dwellings that dominate the north side of East Isabella Street. Immediately to the west is the prominently towered residence known as the Frederick Grier house and on the east is the mid nineteenth-century Italianate-inspired Toadvine house. The property on which J. Waller Williams erected his house was purchased in July 1920, and the house and lot were held by him until his death in 1959. J. Waller Williams was as an early automobile retailer in Salisbury.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: J. Waller Williams House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-328

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1925
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-328

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic J. Waller Williams House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 103 East Isabella Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. James L. Gibson

street & number 103 East Isabella Street telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-328

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The J. Waller Williams house stands at 103 East Isabella Street in the center of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story four-square brick house faces south with the medium pitched hip roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1920, the two-and-a-half story, four-square dwelling has Flemish bond walls that rise to medium pitched hip roof covered in slate. Attached to the back of the house is a single-story kitchen wing. Standing northeast of the house is a single story brick garage dating from the 1920s as well.

The south (main) elevation is a two-bay facade with a side entrance filling the eastern of the two bays. An arched front entrance and an adjacent ten-over-one sash window are sheltered by a single story hip roofed porch covered in asphalt shingles. The porch roof is supported by a distinctive series of arched and square openings, and a pierced brick railing stretches between the vertical columns. The front entrance is fitted with a round arched glazed door. The second floor is pierced by a pair of eight-over-one sash windows flanked with paneled shutters. Accenting the Flemish bond wall on the second floor is a band of basketweave brickwork. The base of the roof is finished with a wide eave enclosed with a narrow tongue-and-groove board soffit. Piercing the roofline is a centrally placed brick chimney.

The east (side) elevation is defined by a three-bay facade with the first floor partially covered by a single-story, flat-roofed enclosed porch. Eight-pane casements pierce each wall of the enclosed porch, and the roof is surrounded by a pierced brick balustrade. A double French door opens onto the porch on the second floor. Although defined as a window opening, the center bay on the second floor is false and filled with brick. The northeastern window opening is filled with an eight-over-one sash window.

The west (side) elevation is a three-bay facade with eight-over-one sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The center bay on the second floor is a false opening filled with brick.

Attached to the back of the main block is a single story hip roofed brick kitchen. The roof extends on the east side to incorporate a square post porch.

The single-story brick garage is a hip roofed structure that stands on the northeast corner of the lot. The south wall is pieced by a row of garage doors, and the building is lighted by six-over-one sash windows.

The interior of the house was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-328

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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The early twentieth century design of the J. Waller Williams house provides an interesting architectural contrast to the mid and late nineteenth-century Victorian dwellings that dominate the north side of East Isabella Street. Immediately to the west is the prominently towered residence known as the Frederick Grier house and on the east is the mid nineteenth-century Italianate-inspired Toadvine house. The property on which J. Waller Williams erected his house was purchased in July 1920, and the house and lot were held by him until his death in 1959. J. Waller Williams was an early automobile retailer in Salisbury.

Due to its intact architectural character, the J. Waller Williams house qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies dwellings of high architectural integrity and which also contribute to the historic nature of a district.

WI-328
J. Waller Williams House
103 East Isabella Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title
Map 104, Parcel 636

1398/129 Ralph W. Powell, Jr.
Betty Mae Powell

to

6/10/1994 James L. Gibson
Mary K. Gibson

JWTS 691/207 Charles I. Williams, et al. (Peggy C. Williams, Jacqueline Williams Banta, J. Chester Banta of Sussex Co. Delaware

to

4/24/1969 Ralph N. Powell, Jr.
Betty Mae Powell

JWTS 406/308 Ruth G. Williams, widow

to

4/6/1950 Charles I. Williams
Jacqueline Williams Bantaa

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Page 2

J. Waller Williams House
103 East Isabella Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JAH 5/59

Last Will and Testament of
J. Waller Williams

Item 1

9/3/1959

JCK 118/499

W. P. Wise, A. J. McMath, et al.

to

7/28/1920

J. Waller Williams

JCK 114/343

Charles E. Williams
Addie Williams

to

12/2/1919

W. P. Wise, et al. trustees

EAT 76/510

Fred A. Grier
Maggie T. Grier

to

10/26/1911

Charles E. Williams,

Assumption of mortgage EAT 75/324, \$1,000

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

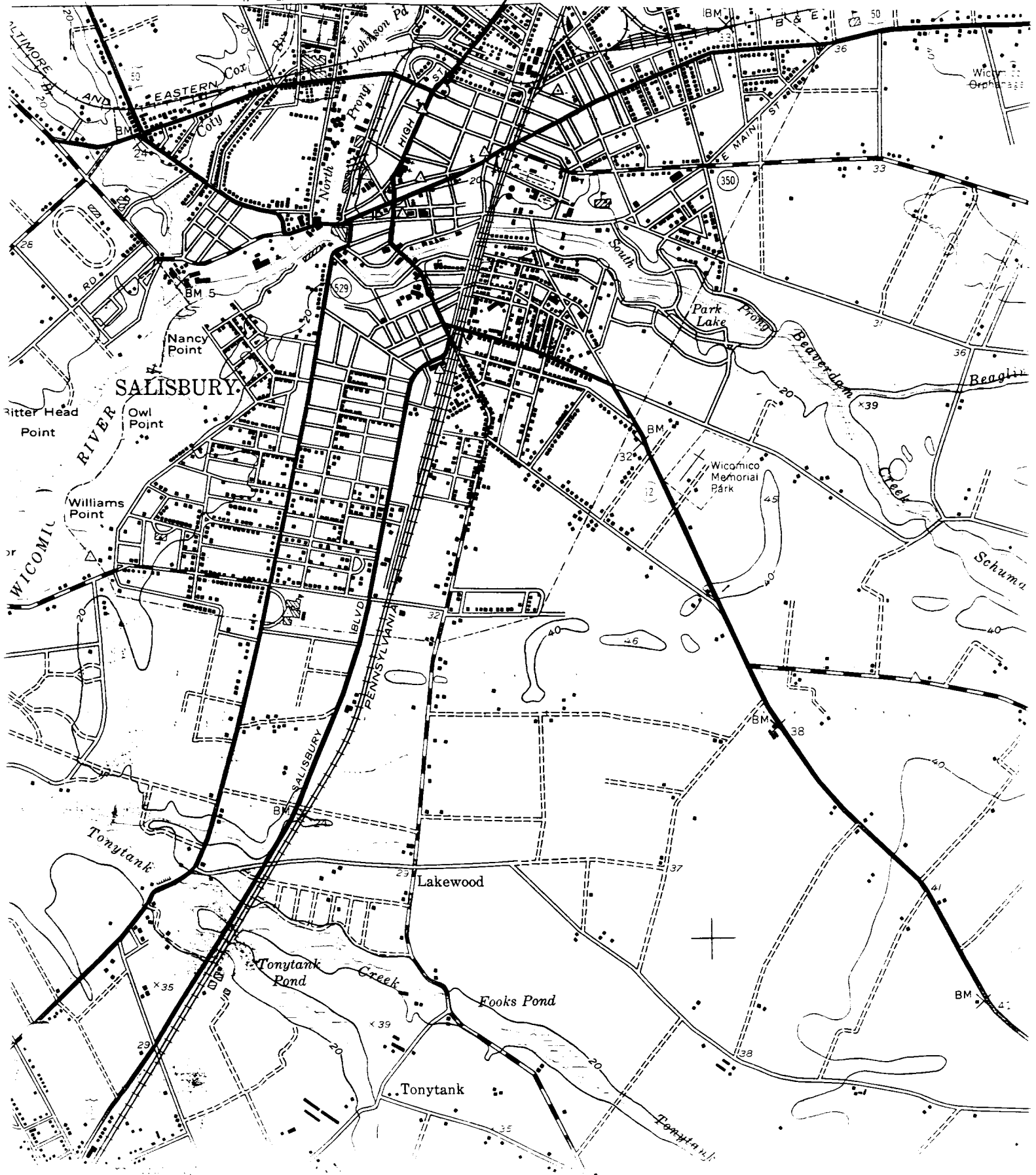
CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 15 MI.

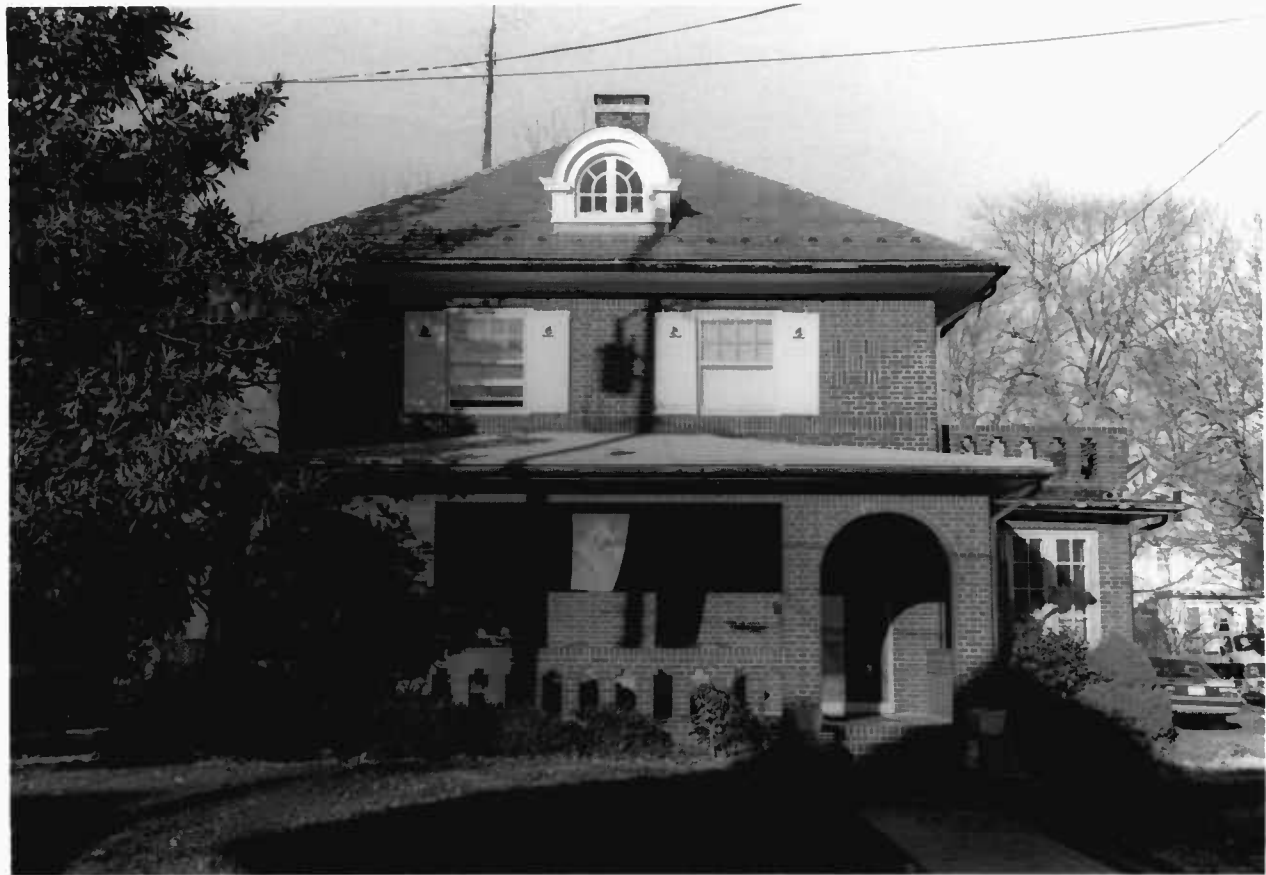
447000m E

WI-328

J. Waller Williams House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





NI-329

1. Name of unit: *Unit 1*

Spencer, Michael, Center, etc.

Spencer, Michael

1/2/99. Page 1-100. Distribution

with (no) information from

1 of 2



